

WE CLAIM:

1 1. A method for operating a disk drive in a mobile device wherein, immediately after
2 responding to a disk access command, the disk drive is in a first operating mode that consumes a
3 relatively high level of power and may transition to a second operating mode that consumes a
4 relatively low level of power, the method comprising the steps of:

5 setting first and second time period thresholds, the first time period threshold being less
6 than the second time period threshold;

7 providing an adjustable delay time interval that is set to correspond to one of the time
8 period thresholds, the delay time interval being the time interval for waiting after an end of a
9 response to a disk access command before transitioning from the first operating mode to the
10 second operating mode;

11 measuring a demand time interval for each of a plurality of disk access commands,
12 wherein each demand time interval is defined as a time period between an end of a response to a
13 last disk access command and an arrival of a next disk access command;

14 setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the first time period threshold if a
15 majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time
16 period less than the first time period threshold or a time period greater than the second time
17 period threshold;

18 setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the second time period threshold if a
19 majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time
20 period between the first time period threshold and the second time period threshold; and

21 transitioning the disk drive from the first operating mode to the second operating mode
22 after expiration of the delay time interval.

1 2. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 1, wherein transitioning from
2 the second operating mode to the first operating mode consumes a transition quantity of power,
3 and an exchange time interval is defined as a time period during which power consumed by
4 operating in the first power operating mode is about equal to the transition quantity of power.

1 3. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 2, wherein the first time period
2 threshold is about 0.3% of the exchange time interval, and the second time period threshold is
3 about 66% of the exchange time interval.

1 4. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 2, wherein the second time
2 period threshold is less than the exchange time interval.

1 5. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 1, wherein the predetermined
2 number of the plurality of demand time intervals is 7 and the majority of the predetermined
3 number of the plurality of demand time intervals for setting the delay time interval is 4.

1 6. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 1, wherein the demand time
2 intervals comprising the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals are
3 measured using the most recent disk access commands.

1 7. A method for operating a disk drive in a mobile device wherein, immediately after
2 responding to a disk access command, the disk drive is in first operating mode that consumes a
3 relatively high level of power and may transition to a second operating mode that consumes a
4 relatively low level of power, the method comprising the steps of:

5 setting first, second and third time period thresholds, the first time period threshold being
6 less than the second time period threshold and the second time period threshold being less than
7 the third time period threshold;

8 providing an adjustable delay time interval that is set to correspond to one of the time
9 period thresholds, the delay time interval being the time interval for waiting after an end of a
10 response to a disk access command before transitioning from the first operating mode to the
11 second operating mode;

12 measuring a demand time interval for each of a plurality of disk access commands,
13 wherein each demand time interval is defined as a time period between an end of a response to a
14 last disk access command and an arrival of a next disk access command;

15 setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the first time period threshold if a

majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period less than the first time period threshold or a time period greater than the third time period threshold;

setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the second time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the first time period threshold and the second time period threshold;

setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the third time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the second time period threshold and the third time period threshold; and

transitioning the disk drive from the first operating mode to the second operating mode after expiration of the delay time interval.

8. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 7, wherein transitioning from the second operating mode to the first operating mode consumes a transition quantity of power, and an exchange time interval is defined as a time period during which power consumed by operating in the first power operating mode is about equal to the transition quantity of power.

9. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 8, wherein the first time period threshold is about 0.3% of the exchange time interval, the second time period threshold is about 33% of the exchange time period, and the third time period threshold is about 66% of the exchange time interval.

10. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 8, wherein the third time period threshold is less than the exchange time interval.

11. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 7, wherein the predetermined number of the plurality demand time intervals is 7 and the majority of the predetermined number of the plurality demand time intervals for setting the delay time interval is 4.

12. A method for operating a disk drive as defined in claim 7, wherein the demand time intervals comprising the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals are measured using the most recent disk access commands.

13. A mobile device having a disk drive wherein, immediately after responding to a disk access command from the mobile device, the disk drive is in a first operating mode that consumes a relatively high level of power and may transition to a second operating mode that consumes a relatively low level of power, the disk drive comprising:

means for setting first and second time period thresholds, the first time period threshold being less than the second time period threshold;

means for providing an adjustable delay time interval that is set to correspond to one of the time period thresholds, the delay time interval being the time interval for waiting after an end of a response to a disk access command before transitioning from the first operating mode to the second operating mode;

means for measuring a demand time interval for each of a plurality of disk access commands, wherein each demand time interval is defined as a time period between an end of a response to a last disk access command and an arrival of a next disk access command;

means for setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the first time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period less than the first time period threshold or a time period greater than the second time period threshold, and setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the second time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the first time period threshold and the second time period threshold; and

means for transitioning the disk drive from the first operating mode to the second operating mode after expiration of the delay time interval.

14. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 13, wherein transitioning from the second operating mode to the first operating mode consumes a transition quantity of

power, and an exchange time interval is defined as a time period during which power consumed by operating in the first power operating mode is about equal to the transition quantity of power.

15. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 14, wherein the first time period threshold is about 0.3% of the exchange time interval, and the second time period threshold is about 66% of the exchange time interval.

16. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 14, wherein the second time period threshold is less than the exchange time interval.

17. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 13, wherein the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals is 7 and the majority of the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals for setting the delay time interval is 4.

18. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 13, wherein the demand time intervals comprising the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals used by the means for setting the delay time interval are measured using the most recent disk access commands.

19. A mobile device having a disk drive wherein, immediately after responding to a disk access command, the disk drive is in first operating mode that consumes a relatively high level of power and may transition to a second operating mode that consumes a relatively low level of power, the disk drive comprising:

means for setting first, second and third time period thresholds, the first time period threshold being less than the second time period threshold and the second time period threshold being less than the third time period threshold;

means for providing an adjustable delay time interval that is set to correspond to one of the time period thresholds, the delay time interval being the time interval for waiting after an end of a response to a disk access command before transitioning from the first operating mode to the

second operating mode;

means for measuring a demand time interval for each of a plurality of disk access commands, wherein each demand time interval is defined as a time period between an end of a response to a last disk access command and an arrival of a next disk access command;

means for setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the first time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period less than the first time period threshold or a time period greater than the third time period threshold, setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the second time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the first time period threshold and the second time period threshold, and setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the third time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the second time period threshold and the third time period threshold; and

means for transitioning the disk drive from the first operating mode to the second operating mode after expiration of the delay time interval.

20. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 19, wherein transitioning from the second operating mode to the first operating mode consumes a transition quantity of power, and an exchange time interval is defined as a time period during which power consumed by operating in the first power operating mode is about equal to the transition quantity of power.

21. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 20, wherein the first time period threshold is about 0.3% of the exchange time interval, the second time period threshold is about 33% of the exchange time period, and the third time period threshold is about 66% of the exchange time interval.

22. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 20, wherein the third time period threshold is less than the exchange time interval.

1 23. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 19, wherein the
2 predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals is 7 and the majority of the
3 predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals for setting the delay time interval
4 is 4.

1 24. A mobile device having a disk drive as defined in claim 19, wherein the demand time
2 intervals comprising the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals used by
3 the means for setting the delay time interval are measured using the most recent disk access
4 commands.

1 25. A disk drive for use in a mobile device wherein, immediately after responding to a
2 disk access command from the mobile device, the disk drive is in a first operating mode that
3 consumes a relatively high level of power and may transition to a second operating mode that
4 consumes a relatively low level of power, the disk drive comprising:

5 means for setting first and second time period thresholds, the first time period threshold
6 being less than the second time period threshold;

7 means for providing an adjustable delay time interval that is set to correspond to one of
8 the time period thresholds, the delay time interval being the time interval for waiting after an end
9 of a response to a disk access command before transitioning from the first operating mode to the
10 second operating mode;

11 means for measuring a demand time interval for each of a plurality of disk access
12 commands, wherein each demand time interval is defined as a time period between an end of a
13 response to a last disk access command and an arrival of a next disk access command;

14 means for setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the first time period
15 threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls
16 within a time period less than the first time period threshold or a time period greater than the
17 second time period threshold, and setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the second
18 time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time
19 intervals falls within a time period between the first time period threshold and the second time
20 period threshold; and

21 means for transitioning the disk drive from the first operating mode to the second
22 operating mode after expiration of the delay time interval.

1 26. A disk drive as defined in claim 25, wherein transitioning from the second operating
2 mode to the first operating mode consumes a transition quantity of power, and an exchange time
3 interval is defined as a time period during which power consumed by operating in the first power
4 operating mode is about equal to the transition quantity of power.

1 27. A disk drive as defined in claim 26, wherein the first time period threshold is about
2 0.3% of the exchange time interval, and the second time period threshold is about 66% of the
3 exchange time interval.

1 28. A disk drive as defined in claim 26, wherein the second time period threshold is less
2 than the exchange time interval.

1 29. A disk drive as defined in claim 25, wherein the predetermined number of the
2 plurality of demand time intervals is 7 and the majority of the predetermined number of the
3 plurality of demand time intervals for setting the delay time interval is 4.

1 30. A disk drive as defined in claim 25, wherein the demand time intervals comprising
2 the predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals used by the means for setting
3 the delay time interval are measured using the most recent disk access commands.

1 31. A disk drive for use in a mobile device wherein, immediately after responding to a
2 disk access command, the disk drive is in first operating mode that consumes a relatively high
3 level of power and may transition to a second operating mode that consumes a relatively low
4 level of power, the disk drive comprising:

5 means for setting first, second and third time period thresholds, the first time period
6 threshold being less than the second time period threshold and the second time period threshold
7 being less than the third time period threshold;

means for providing an adjustable delay time interval that is set to correspond to one of the time period thresholds, the delay time interval being the time interval for waiting after an end of a response to a disk access command before transitioning from the first operating mode to the second operating mode;

means for measuring a demand time interval for each of a plurality of disk access commands, wherein each demand time interval is defined as a time period between an end of a response to a last disk access command and an arrival of a next disk access command;

means for setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the first time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period less than the first time period threshold or a time period greater than the third time period threshold, setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the second time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the first time period threshold and the second time period threshold, and setting the delay time interval to be equal to about the third time period threshold if a majority of a predetermined number of the plurality of demand time intervals falls within a time period between the second time period threshold and the third time period threshold; and

means for transitioning the disk drive from the first operating mode to the second operating mode after expiration of the delay time interval.

32. A disk drive as defined in claim 31, wherein transitioning from the second operating mode to the first operating mode consumes a transition quantity of power, and an exchange time interval is defined as a time period during which power consumed by operating in the first power operating mode is about equal to the transition quantity of power.

33. A disk drive as defined in claim 32, wherein the first time period threshold is about 0.3% of the exchange time interval, the second time period threshold is about 33% of the exchange time period, and the third time period threshold is about 66% of the exchange time interval.

